

CSE/ISE 312: Legal, Social, and Ethical Issues in Information Systems (Section 03)

Stony Brook University, Fall 2018

Course Description

This course deals with the impact of computers on us as individuals and on our society. Rapid changes in computing technology and in our use of that technology have changed the way we work, play, and interact with other people. These changes have created a flood of new social and legal issues that demand critical examination. For example, technologies such as Gmail, Facebook, MySpace, along with music sharing sites and wikis create new social, ethical, and legal issues. This course is offered as both CSE 312 and ISE 312.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing, plus one D.E.C. E or SNW course

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of how computing and information systems give rise to social issues and ethical dilemmas
- Demonstrate an ability to discuss the benefits offered by computing technology in many different areas and the risks and problems associated with these technologies
- Demonstrate an understanding of some social, legal, philosophical, political, constitutional, and economical issues related to computers and the historical background of these issues
- Recognize the need for continuing professional development

Course Information

Lecture Meetings: Monday and Wednesday, 5:30–6:50 PM, in Staller M0113

Textbook: *A Gift of Fire: Social, Legal, and Ethical Issues for Computing Technology, 5th Edition*, by Sara Baase and Timothy M. Henry (Pearson 2017).

All course materials (announcements, slides, homework, and supplemental reading assignments) will be posted on Blackboard. Blackboard will also be used to host a course-related discussion forum for class participation purposes.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Michael Tashbook (<tashbook@cs.stonybrook.edu>)

Instructor Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00–8:30 PM in New Computer Science 204. I am also available at other times by appointment.

Important Dates

- September 3: Labor Day (no class)
- September 19: No class meeting
- October 8: Fall Break (no class)
- October 17: Midterm Exam (in class)
- November 21: Thanksgiving Break (no class)
- December 17: Final Exam (5:30–8:00 PM, location TBA)

Grading Policy

Course grades are based on a combination of:

- one **closed-book** written midterm exam (20%)
- one **closed-book** comprehensive written final examination (30%)
- four **closed-book** in-class quizzes (2% each, total weight 8%)
- one ten-minute in-class pair presentation (16%)
- four written homework assignments (2 @ 2% each, 2 @ 6% each, total weight 16%)
- class participation (attendance: 4%, in-class/online discussion: 6%, total weight 10%)

Extra credit opportunities may be offered as the semester progresses (their existence is not guaranteed), The total of any extra credit points that you earn throughout the semester cannot exceed 25% of the difference between your "regular" final grade (not counting extra credit) and 100 points. For example, if your (non-extra-credit) final grade is 84, your accumulated extra credit will only increase your final grade by a total of 4 points (100 - 84, divided by 4).

All grades will be posted on Blackboard. Each assignment's contribution to the final weighted grade is calculated as follows: Divide your assignment score by the total points available for that assignment. Multiply that percentage by the assignment weight. For example, if you score 83 out of 100 on the midterm exam (worth 20%), you would earn $(83/100) * 20$ or 16.6 points toward your final weighted grade (measured on a scale of 0–100).

Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale (we will use the ceiling function to automatically round any grades with fractional components to the next whole integer):

Weighted Point Total	Final Letter Grade	Weighted Point Total	Final Letter Grade
94–100	A	78–80	C+
91–93	A-	74–77	C
88–90	B+	71–73	C-
84–87	B	65–70	D
81–83	B-	0–64	F

Assignment Submission Policy: Each assignment clearly states its due date and specifies important submission information (formatting/style guidelines, etc.). Late or improperly-submitted assignments will **NOT** be accepted for grading. Presentations **MUST** be made on the scheduled date, barring weather, religious, or medical issues. Failure to present on the assigned date may result in the complete loss of those points. Submissions with offensive or defamatory content will receive a point deduction, possibly up to the assignment's full value (thereby earning a 0).

Grade Challenge Policy: The TAs and I will endeavor to post grades as soon as possible after homework assignments and exams are turned in (normally within 7–10 days of the assignment due date or exam date). Questions about or challenges to assignment or exam grading **MUST** be made **IN WRITING** within **ONE WEEK** of that grade being posted; after that period, grades are considered final for that assignment.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. Absences may be excused for documented medical or religious reasons, or for documented participation in University-sponsored events. Each student is permitted up to **TWO** (2) unexcused absences for the semester. Additional unexcused absences will result in a 2-point deduction *per absence* from your final weighted grade total (for example, if your weighted final grade is a 92 and you have four unexcused absences for the semester, the two additional unexcused absences will lower your final grade to an 88).

Exam Policies: All students must bring photo ID to each exam. Students will not be admitted more than 10 minutes late to any exam. Make-up exams will be granted at the instructor's discretion, and **ONLY** for valid medical reasons (a doctor's note is required), for religious reasons, or for documented participation in University-sponsored events. Except for medical excuses, reasonable prior notification (at least 48 hours prior to the exam) to the instructor is **REQUIRED** in order for a make-up opportunity to be considered.

General University and Class Policies

1. Americans with Disabilities Act

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the **Student Accessibility Support Center (SASC)**, located in room 128 of the ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building. SASC's phone number is **(631) 632-6748**. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. The SASC Web site is available online at **<http://stonybrook.edu/SASC>**. They can also be reached via email at **SASC@stonybrook.edu**.

2. Academic Integrity Policy

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html

Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically receive a final grade of 'F' for the course.

3. Critical Incident Management

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn.

4. Policy on Electronic Devices in Class

Students are encouraged to bring laptops and tablet devices to class *for note-taking purposes only*. All communication and entertainment devices should be silenced or (preferably) turned off for the duration of the class unless otherwise directed by the instructor. **No electronic devices of any sort may be consulted or used during exams or quizzes;** this will be considered an instance of academic dishonesty, and will be treated as such.

5. Use of Email for Official Communication

Students, faculty, and staff are responsible for making sure they are receiving and checking for official University communications at their primary campus email address (@stonybrook.edu) on a regular basis, or making sure they forward their Stony Brook mail to a personal email account (Google Apps users only).

Tentative Course Calendar

Week	Date	Main Topic(s)	Reading	Useful Notes
1	8/27	Course Overview	Chapter 1	8/31: Last day to waitlist
	8/29	Professional Ethics	Chapter 9	
2	9/3	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	—	9/5: Quiz 1 (in class)
	9/5	Professional Ethics (cont'd)	Chapter 9	
3	9/10	Privacy	Chapter 2	9/10: Last day to add/drop
	9/12			
4	9/17	Freedom of Speech	Chapter 3	
	9/19	NO CLASS MEETING	—	
5	9/24	Freedom of Speech (cont'd)	Chapter 3	
	9/26	Intellectual Property	Chapter 4	
6	10/1	Intellectual Property (cont'd)	Chapter 4	
	10/3	Crime and Security	Chapter 5	10/3: Quiz 2 (in class)
7	10/8	NO CLASS (Fall Break)	—	
	10/10	Crime and Security (cont'd)	Chapter 5	
8	10/15	Midterm review (in class)	—	
	10/17	Midterm Exam (in class)		
9	10/22	PAIR PRESENTATIONS	—	10/26: GPNC deadline
	10/24			
10	10/29	PAIR PRESENTATIONS	—	
	10/31			
11	11/5	PAIR PRESENTATIONS	—	
	11/7			
12	11/12	PAIR PRESENTATIONS	—	
	11/14	The Workplace	Chapter 6	
13	11/19	The Workplace (cont'd)	Chapter 6	11/19: Quiz 3 (in class)
	11/21	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)	—	
14	11/26	Evaluating and Controlling Technology	Chapter 7	
	11/28			
15	12/3	Errors, Failures, and Risks	Chapter 8	12/5: Quiz 4 (in class)
	12/5			
16	12/10	Electronic Voting	(instructor slides)	
Finals		FINAL EXAM (Monday, 12/17, 5:30–8:00 PM, location TBA)		